

Last Days of Socrates

Objectives: Student will be able...

- To identify Socrates as one of the greatest philosophers of all times.
- Identify the writings of Plato as our main historical source on Socrates.
- Describe Socrates' method of cross-questioning people in order to gain an understanding of truth ("The Socratic method").
- Define Socrates' belief that knowledge is virtue and ignorance is vice.
- To explain the political reasons and background for the Athenian conviction of Socrates.
- To identify the heroic choices that Socrates made in refusing to escape from prison and in refusing to plead guilty to the accusations.
- To draw analogies between the death of Socrates and the death of Antigone.

Activities:

- Read Document A and the assigned Document for class
- Like readers analyze and discuss/pair share
- Debate topic: *Should Socrates have been convicted by the Athenians?/ Should Socrates have fled from prison when the opportunity presented itself?*
- Write an essay comparing Socrates to Antigone. Reflect on issues they grappled with, were their positions similar or different, and what heroic qualities they may have shared.

Discussion Questions:

- What was Socrates' background and upbringing?
- What were Socrates' basic beliefs and teachings?
- What was Socrates' method of cross-questioning? Why, where and when did he use it?
- Was it important that Socrates did not accept money for his teaching? Why or why not?
- What was Socrates on trial for? What was he convicted of?
- Did the state have a valid reason to condemn Socrates to death?
- What was Socrates' defense?

Vocabulary:

- Circa
- Socrates
- Socratic Method
- Plato
- Virtue
- Vice
- Knowledge
- *Apology*

- *Crito*
- *Phaedo*
- Philosophy
- Thirty tyrants
- Hemlock
- Morality
- Ethical

Evaluation:

- Informal observation
- Observation of debate
- Debate preparedness
- Debate outcome
- Essay